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SINDHU STORMS INTO SEMIFINAL

Ace shuttler P V Sindhu is in the form of her life and did what she does best at big events. She overcame a draining challenge from Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in straight games and reached the semifinals on Friday. The 26-year-old Indian, who won a silver in the 2016 Rio Olympics, outclassed the fourth-seeded Yamaguchi 21-13, 22-20. The Japanese shuttler had scripted a late comeback in the second game, grabbing two game points but Sindhu ensured there were no hiccups. One talking point was a 54-shot rally Yamaguchi won. Sindhu faces second seed Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying. "I am happy but it's not over yet," Sindhu said after the match

Lovlina secures second medal

The ordeal Lovlina Borgohain had to face in the last one year would have torn apart any ordinary person. Mother's kidney transplantation, her own Covid infection and eventual quarantine all alone and missing exposure trip to Italy, the list is enough to drive anyone crazy. But not Lovlina. Like in life, the 23-year-old overcame those challenges with aplomb. Thousands of miles away, her parents could not watch her fight and preferred to spend time walking outside their house in their village in Assam. As for Lovlina, she waltzed through to semifinal in 69 kg boxing event in Tokyo to assure India a medal, its second, on Friday. She comprehensively beat Nien-Chin Chen of Chinese Taipei 4-1. Lovlina now faces reigning world champion Busenaz Surmeneli of Turkey on August 4

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DEEPIKA EXITS

ANOTHER HEARTBREAK FOR DEEPIKA KUMARI. THE WORLD NO.1 ARCHER LOST TO SOUTH KOREA'S AN SAN IN STRAIGHT SETS 6-0 IN THE QUARTERS. THIS IS HER THIRD OLYMPICS | P17, 18

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

GOOD WORK

99.83% clear CBSE Class 12 in B'luru region

PEARL MARIA DSOUZA @Bengaluru

BENGALURU region, which covers Karnataka, registered a 99.83 pass percentage in CBSE Class 12 Board examinations, whose results were announced on Friday.

The national pass percentage stood at 99.37 with 13,04,561 students clearing the exam. While the examinations were scheduled in May, students did not write them due to rising number of Covid cases and the lockdown. A marking scheme based on past evaluations was decided upon to announce the results.

Echoing the sentiment of CBSE schools across the State, General Secretary of Management of Independent CBSE Schools Association (MICSA) Mansoor Ali Khan said that considering the constraints, the board has done a fair job in modulation and tabulation of marks, keeping the wellness and academic progress of students in mind.

CONTINUED ON: P7

NATIONAL REPORT CARD

99.13% BOYS | 99.67% GIRLS

PASSED CLASS 12 EXAM

No merit list or list of toppers prepared

Will form cabinet in a week, says Bommai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE cabinet will be formed in a week, said Basavaraj Bommai on Friday during his maiden visit to New Delhi after taking charge as chief minister. He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and a host of senior BJP leaders.

While he told the media that the visit was purely to thank party leaders for choosing him as BS Yediyurappa's successor and there was no talk of cabinet expansion, sources in the party suggested that Bommai is returning to Karnataka with the first list of cabinet probables.

Former ministers Umesh Katti and R Ashoka, who are now deputy chief minister aspirants, accompanied Bommai to Delhi.

Basavaraj Bommai with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday during his maiden visit to New Delhi after assuming charge as Karnataka Chief Minister

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, who was also in the run for the top post, played a perfect host and accompanied Bommai to all his meetings with Union ministers and party leaders. From Modi to BJP national president JP Nadda, all leaders assured Bommai of full cooperation for his government.

"Met CM of Karnataka Shri @BSBommai Ji today. Conveyed best wishes as he begins a new journey for Karnataka's progress. Assured full support for the development of Karnataka," Modi tweeted after the meeting. Bommai requested Modi to approve an AIIMS in Hubballi-Dharwad and an AIIMS-like institute for Raichur, which is identified as an aspirational district by NITI Aayog. He also appealed to the Prime Minister to upgrade ESIC Medical College and Hospital in Kalaburagi to Regional AIIMS-like Institute, a statement issued by the PMO said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

Bank credit growth falls further in June

SESA SEN @New Delhi

EVEN as the economy is yet to fully recover from the Covid shock, one financial metric continues to be a big worry – bank credit growth, which has either fallen or remained flat. Latest RBI data show credit growth of scheduled commercial banks declined to 5.8% in June against 6.2% a year ago. On a sequential basis, loan growth remained nil due to low demand from industries and banks' reluctance to lend to stressed sectors and companies.

RBI figures show the credit growth was largely driven by retail and agriculture sectors, while fund flow to industry has dried up. Advances to agriculture and allied sectors showed a good 11.4% growth in June against a paltry 2.4% in the same month in 2020.

Personal loans, vehicle loans, gold loans, and credit cards outstanding saw a 11.9% growth, highlighting the financial stress individuals face. Within personal loans, consumer durable loans fell 19.8% while advances against shares and bonds shrank 23%.

Growth in credit to big industries stood at 1.9% against 2.2% in June 2020, while loans to MSMEs registered a robust 54.6% expansion in June against 9% fall a year ago.

Going forward, full-year credit growth will likely remain in low double-digit, noted Madan Sabnavis, chief economist, Care Ratings.

CORE SECTOR OUTPUT GROWS 8.9% IN JUNE

The output of eight core sectors grew 8.9% in June, mainly due to a low base effect and uptick in production of natural gas, steel, coal and electricity, official data released on Friday showed | P15

FISCAL DEFICIT AT 18% OF FY22 TARGET

The Centre's fiscal deficit stood at ₹2.74 lakh crore or 18.2% of the full year's Budget estimate at the end of June, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Friday | P15

EXPRESS READ

High-level Sino-Indian military talks today

New Delhi: After a gap of over three-and-a-half months, India and China will hold high-level military talks on Saturday with the focus on making some forward movement in the disengagement process at friction points in East Ladakh. P8

Intl flights to stay suspended till Aug 31

New Delhi: The suspension of international passenger flights has been extended till August 31. However, international flights may be allowed on select routes by a competent authority on a case-to-case basis, the DGCA said.

Total washout in Parliament for second week

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE ongoing monsoon session of Parliament was almost totally washed out for the second successive week amid vociferous protests by a united Opposition demanding discussion into the Pegasus snoopgate.

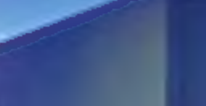
While the government introduced four bills on Friday and passed one quickly, complete paralysis of Parliament could be expected next week as well, as floor leaders of the Opposition unanimously decided to stay firm on their demands.

The Opposition wants a discussion on the snooping in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Union home minister Amit Shah, besides a Supreme Court-monitored judicial probe, while the government is not ready to yield, claim as it does that new IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has already given a detailed statement on the floor of both Houses of Parliament.

"Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is the place where we have to speak. The government is refusing to give us a discussion on Pegasus. Obviously, the government has done something wrong. Obviously, the government has done something that is dangerous for the country, otherwise they would say, please have a discussion," said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, after the meeting of Opposition floor leaders.

A short duration discussion on Covid lined up in the Lok Sabha could not happen as the House was adjourned for the day. Voicing strong concern over the conduct of some MPs during protests in the Upper House, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said such conduct lowered the dignity and prestige of the House.

Amid the din in the LS, two bills — The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill — were introduced. The Coconut Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was passed in the RS. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said: "We want a discussion but the government does not intend to."



Rahul hits out at govt

Since it is refusing discussion on snoopgate, obviously the government has done something wrong, alleged Rahul Gandhi

As cases spike, govt tells officials to take steps to contain spread

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CONCERNED over an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the State and a spike Kerala, the Karnataka Government has directed officials to strictly monitor the situation and impose additional containment measures if necessary.

"We have taken a serious note of the increase in Covid cases in Kerala and we are taking all measures to contain the spread in the State," Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters in Delhi on Friday. He is in Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers.

On Friday, Karnataka reported 1,890 new cases and 34 deaths. While Bengaluru reported 426 new cases, Dakshina Kannada had 345 cases, Udupi 155 and Hassan 135. The State had 2,062 new cases on Thursday.

Bommai spoke to Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar and deputy commissioners from bordering districts to get information on the situation, and directed them to monitor those coming in from Kerala by road or train. He will hold a video-conference with DCs, SPs and health department officials on Saturday, while the chief secretary conducted a virtual meet with deputy commissioners on Friday.

Health Commissioner Dr KV Trilok Chandra said they have been consistently conducting around 1.5 lakh tests per day. Testing will be increased in places where a high number of cases are being reported, he added.

In districts bordering Kerala, officials are insisting that those entering the State should have RTPCR negative reports regardless of their vaccination status, an official said.

CONTINUED ON: P7

NATIONWIDE	JULY 29	JULY 30
Fresh cases	43,509	44,230
Recoveries	38,465	42,360
Deaths	640	555

KARNATAKA	JULY 29	JULY 30
Fresh cases	2,052	1,890
Recoveries	1,332	1,631
Deaths	35	34

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

July 29 **46,52,914 doses**

July 30 **44,38,901 doses**

TOTAL DOSES 46,06,56,534

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